

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 5-9, 11-13, 15-20 are pending. Claims 1-2, 9, 13, 15 are currently amended. Claims 19-20 are new. Claims 3-4, 10 were previously cancelled. Claim 14 is currently cancelled.

Applicant's attorney greatly appreciates the professional courtesy extended by the Examiner during the telephone Interview.

Claims 1, 2 and 13 have been amended to include the phrase "HCV IRES."

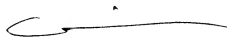
Claim 9 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Claim 15 has been amended by deleting the phrase "treating and/or preventing HCV infection" for purpose of clarification. Claim 15, as previously presented, recites a step of introducing into a person an agent capable of binding to the ribosomal protein S5, this limitation finds support on page 4, lines 1-3 of the Specification, and Page 5, lines 10-13 where it is stated that therapeutic molecules or compositions are desirable for treating HCV infection and that structural analogs of the SL III e+f RNA may be used as potent inhibitors of HCV infection. The "agent" recited in Claim 15 can be one or more of these therapeutic molecules, compositions, or structural analogs disclosed in the original Specification.

With these amendments, Applicant's attorney respectfully solicits a Notice of Allowance in the next office communication. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned. No fees are currently due along with this filing. However, if any fee is deemed necessary in connection with this filing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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